

# THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE WEST INDIES seem at last to be receiving from Whitehall the attention which the deplorable condition of the great mass of their labour population urgently demands. The appointment of a Royal Commission is usually and often quite rightly regarded as a convenient political device for shelving awkward questions, since by the time a Commission comes to make its report the problems it set out to tackle have, by mere lapse of years, either been largely forgotten or have become less important. In the present case, however, the subjects of inquiry need not and ought not to require elaborate and prolonged investigation. There is no dispute as to the main facts, and the Commission will have the benefit of considering the recommendations already made by the Trinidad and Barbados Commissions and the report that the Governor's Commission now at work in Jamaica will no doubt be in a position shortly to publish. On all grounds, then, there is reason to hope that the Royal Commission about to be appointed will find itself able speedily to formulate a sound and comprehensive constructive policy for the economic regeneration of the West Indian islands. And in the meantime we have Mr. MacDonald's assurance that the Government have no intention of ignoring their responsibilities. They had, he said, sufficient information available for initiating a policy of action, and he outlined the main directions in which remedial measures could and should be taken. These were the expansion of social services, the safeguarding of the main agricultural industries on which the islands had hitherto been largely dependent, the development so far as possible of new additional occupations and means of livelihood for the West Indian peoples, and finally the establishment of better relations between employers and employed through an improvement in the conditions of employment, and the erection of machinery for conciliation and arbitration. "Plenty of material for getting on with," in short; and the sooner the Government "get on with it," the better for the West Indies and Britain's prestige in the world at large.

PALESTINE WAS INEVITABLY another subject on which Mr. MacDonald had to dwell in his opening statement on the Colonial Office vote. And it must be admitted that he did his best to slur over the unpleasantnesses of the situation in that country. There were "unhappily," he confessed, "still acts of destruction of property and murders." But he drew much consolation from the fact that "a great barbed-wire fence round the northern boundary was proceeding as rapidly as possible, and the 30 or 40 miles which were to be covered would be completed within the next few weeks," and went on to express the hope that the construction of this barrier would do much to stop the importation of arms into Palestine.

The Tegart Line may or may not be as impressive as the Hindenburg Line of the Great War, but that it should have been necessary to ring round the northern boundary of Palestine with barbed-wire is surely rather a depressing commentary on present conditions in that country. What a prospect, too, for the Woodhead Commission discovering "a scheme of partition that will be equitable and practicable" with Arab and Jew antagonisms growing daily more intense! And the curious part of the business is that the Government seem to be dimly aware that Partition is bringing strife, not peace. "We have," said Mr. MacDonald, "under active consideration the question whether more forces are required in Palestine if we are finally to attain our objective of restoring law and order in that country."

FROM WIRELESS TO aeroplanes demands no giant's stride and Sir John Reith's progress or regress from the B.B.C. to Imperial Airways is unlikely to startle the world. Sir John Reith was the British Broadcasting Corporation and it is to his credit that even those who were maddened by his narrowness of view and limitations have to admit that he kept in check the dangers of a new menace to humanity and really did try to turn it to an ideal advantage. His iron hand played havoc at times with the ideas of those who served under him, and there was a hint of autocracy about the B.B.C. which was probably healthy in these days of reaction to Dictatorships. The fact remains that thanks to Sir John, this country has been spared that soul-destroying miasma of advertising which descended upon wireless in many countries and countless thousands of Englishmen have been able to enjoy good music which could not otherwise have come their way, even if they have to switch off violently more often than they think right to avoid the poisonous sweet of the cinema organ or the infernal sounds that suggest a dentist's drill. Probably he will be far better on the Board of Imperial Airways than at the B.B.C. There his artistic and philosophical notions will have no play and it would not matter at all whether he was a puritan or libertine. He is unquestionably a great organiser and a vast field lies open to him.

THE COUNTRY HAS REASON to be grateful to the Prime Minister for his cautious statement as to the Government's attitude to the bombing of British ships in or near Spanish Government ports. A number of cheerful folk who have never in the past given a fig for the prestige of the British Empire are shaken with pacifist fury at the thought that ships flying our flag should be endangered by aeroplane bombs, when they have ignored the warning given to all shipping that no protection can be afforded except on the high seas.

Actually, of course, both men and ships engaged are definitely accepting war risks, and freight charges and pay are calculated on that basis. If the Opposition was not anxious to drive this country into a war on behalf of half-baked theories, it would be as unmoved about our mercantile marine as it is about 2,500 people killed on our roads during five months. There are still Englishmen who do not realise that we cannot lightly abandon the advantages of the blockade, which has for over a century been our strongest weapon. The means by which blockade is effected vary with the time. Our own weapons seemed to have been turned against ourselves by the submarine, but science has provided means of defeating this menace. Now the aeroplane comes as an innovation, and no one should blame the Government if it keeps its hands unfettered while means are devised for preventing this new arm from hampering our ships on their lawful occasions without crippling the might of British sea power.

**THE TEST MATCH** at Trent Bridge began so splendidly for England that it is natural for Englishmen to be a little disappointed over the final result. None the less it would be churlish in the extreme not to congratulate the Australians and their redoubtable captain on the fine fight they put up when the odds seemed heavily against them. They not only staved off defeat, but compiled, in their two innings, a total of runs that left the honours fairly easy. There is no quarrel to be found with the English bowling; every account of the match agrees in holding that the bowlers did all that was possible to break down the strength of the Australian defence. It was a batsman's rather than a bowler's pitch, and the Australians were taking no chances. Had they not been possessed of great batting talent, stout hearts and fine craftsmanship in the game the result might have been different. As it is, this Test Match serves to prove to any who were inclined to have doubts about the Australians' prowess that they are an exceedingly formidable side to beat. At the same time, for all the disappointment over the draw, there is much to hearten us for future Tests in the performance of our own team, in all departments of the game, at Trent Bridge. And one is particularly glad to note that so far as the captaincy of the English team is concerned there is to be no change for the Second Test Match at Lord's next week.

**IT IS ONLY IN RECENT** years that the watercolour drawings of John White Abbott, have come to the notice of collectors of early English watercolours. A delightful show of his works is to be seen at Walker's Galleries and should not be missed by anyone interested in this school of painting.

At the Redfern Gallery works by modern French artists are on view, amongst them a fine Utrillo, whose pictures are very popular at the moment. There is also an early Sickert and a couple of John's, hanging cheek by jowl with Dufy—a curious contrast.

Under the same roof Rowland Suddaby shows a few canvasses. His landscapes are pleasing but

his style is thick and heavy when he attempts figure painting.

Griettie van Stolk showing at the Wertheim Gallery is a painter of talent; her figures show repose and strength, and are well composed.

**AT THE SAVOY THEATRE**, *No Sky So Blue*, a comedy by Henry C. James, is a hit at Geneva and Peace Conferences in general. It is an amusing hotch-potch of vamps and diplomats, who fall over each other in matrimonial and political mix-ups. It is partly musical, and Miss Seidl and Miss Nieson hold the stage with songs in which the moonlight plays a large part. These ladies find great favour with the audience. Their styles are strongly contrasted which adds to their success.

**IT IS THE SUBTLE** and varied symbolism of Indian dancing which mostly differentiates it from the dancing of the West. This was well shown last Friday at the Arts Theatre Club by Ragini Devi, who prefaced her performance of traditional Hindu dances by an explanation and demonstration of the leading symbolic gestures. In these the eyes play a notable part.

The lovely Dance of the Goddess Parvati, the horrific Dance of Death, and the attractive Marwari Dance, with the heavy swinging skirt, were outstanding items in a memorable programme. Padmini Pillai told the story of the various dances with a sincerity and artless charm which endeared her to the audience, and the flute playing of C. Sudarshanam and the musicians in general were a feature of an unusually interesting evening.

**THERE IS A MOST** amusing new play, *Babes in the Wood*, by James Bridie, at the Embassy Theatre, in which Miss Angela Baddeley plays the leading part. She is quite excellent. The play is about a schoolmaster and his wife who go to stay in an exotic household, reeking with zebras and cocktails. Here the fun begins, and good fun it is. The whole cast is first-rate. This is a play all London will love.

**THERE HAVE BEEN** no changes of any importance in the programmes of the cinemas during the last week, but there have been two notable revivals. The first is *Un Carnet De Bal*, one of the best pictures that France has given us, in which a widow sets out to discover what has happened to half a dozen men who proclaimed their undying affection for her when she made her debut. This is at the Forum cinema; the other, *Mister Flow*, which is also French, is at the Everyman. In that film a barrister gets himself entangled with a gang of thieves the leader of which is the mysterious Mister Flow. Actually this gentleman is in prison from which position he uses the barrister, who has been briefed to defend him, as an intermediary between himself and his gang. Both these pictures are good examples of the French technique, and contain more within a foot of celluloid than Hollywood and ourselves have in a reel.



## Leading Articles

### NON-INTERVENTION

ONE returning from frequent visits to the Pyrenees is wont to be asked: "What is this Non-intervention?" The answer is simple. Non-intervention is a banner, a slogan, a smoke-screen: it is not, and never has been, a real thing. Non-intervention, that is to say, the declared policy of all other States of Europe capable of intervening in the civil war in Spain not to intervene therein, was first proposed by M. Leon Blum, France's Socialist Prime Minister. This sounds a point in M. Blum's favour, but in fact his proposal did not derive from any wish to stand aside and let Spaniards fight it out, but solely from the fear that, if France did openly give assistance to the bunches of Communists, anarchists, separatists and plain murderers collectively known by polite persons as the Spanish Republican Government, there would ensue civil war in France also. (I need hardly say that I speak only of the second and still existing Spanish Republican Government.) This was undoubtedly the object of Muscovite intrigue. If the Soviets could provoke civil war in one of the principal European nations, a long step towards their ultimate goal, the overthrow of Western civilisation would be achieved. French Communists, who had a good pull on M. Blum, tried all they knew to make the French Government dance to Stalin's tune. But M. Blum was then too timid or not far enough along the inclined plane. Later he became more bold, or less wary: with what result we shall see.

The Front Populaire, then, despite the howls of M. Léon Jouhaux and the Confédération Générale du Travail, of which he is the boss, did not officially succour the Frente Popular. What of that? French Reds, backed by such powerful interests, soon found out how to circumvent any little difficulty this seeming neutrality might present. If the first plan to send a score of the newest French bombers to Madrid was scotched, the Frente Popular was enabled privately to acquire a large number of fine fighting machines, to pilot which French airmen were encouraged to volunteer at a salary, it is said, of 50,000 francs—then £500—a month. From the beginning, and down at all events to May of this year, Red Spanish aeroplanes have flown to Toulouse to be refuelled and overhauled at the military aerodrome there. My own eyes have seen a good few, my friends' eyes still more. While these 'planes are at the aerodrome, all but a picked gang of fitters are kept within doors.

So much for the air. With regard to effectives to add to Red man-power, nothing was simpler than to open recruiting offices under the guise of agencies for obtaining labourers for well-paid work in Spain; they flourished, and may still flourish,

in Paris, Marseilles and Perpignan. Doubtless a number of hard-bitten, sincere Communists volunteered, but the majority were certainly cajoled by false promises. Complaint has been loud of the harsh treatment meted out to such. They have had more than their fair share of the fighting, they are badly fed and paid, are not allowed even when disabled by wounds or sickness to return to France, and latterly are kept from breaking by the old Bolshevik device of a line of machine-guns trained on them from behind. When people talk of Italian man-power in Spain they forget, or have never known, the facts. There have been perhaps something over 30,000 Italians fighting for General Franco. On the side of Communist Madrid and Barcelona, Communism having in the end more or less squashed the other subversive elements, there have been certainly over 80,000 foreigners, of whom 40,000 or more have been French: 14,000 Frenchmen have been killed in action, 15,000 are known still to be serving—with their backs to machine-guns manned by Russians, German Communists and Spanish anarchists. The rest are in hospital, or employed as instructors and in factories. The maximum number of Italians in General Franco's ranks can now be put at under 20,000; the number of foreign effectives is therefore about the same on either side.

But French aid to the Reds in man-power has not ended there. Whenever it was possible to switch over beaten Reds, taking refuge in France, to another "Government" sector, this has been done. Here is a despatch from Toulouse, published in the Paris paper, *Excelsior*, as the most ordinary piece of news:—

"Toulouse, September 5.—A special train conveying about eight hundred militia-men and militia-women coming from Irun passed through Toulouse yesterday evening on its way to Barcelona. During their stop at the Matabiau station a collation was offered to them. The train stopped for about half an hour and then set off in the direction of Cerbère. A large concourse, among which were noticeable several well-known politicians of Toulouse, crowded the platform."

The several well-known politicians were, of course, local leaders of the Front Populaire. Everyone who knows France is aware that special trains cannot be had, journeys of foreign troops organised and such courtesies be offered them, without active encouragement and direction from the Minister of the Interior.

And quite lately the Reds beaten back over the frontier near Luchon and in Andorra have been entrained by the French authorities for Cerbère and Barcelona. A sop was thrown to the theory of Non-intervention by offering the men the choice of being sent via Hendaye to General Franco. But as only batchelors with no families to be victimised and no major crimes on their conscience could accept, the number was obviously small.

As to *matériel*, the quantity sent to the Spanish Reds from and through France has been Gargantuan. Throughout the summer months that preceded the capture of Irun by the Nationalists, lorries poured across the bridge at Hendaye. Gendarmes, questioned on their contents, replied with a genial laugh: "Oh, potatoes, of course!"

It is true that for some three months this traffic dwindled. A hundred and thirty, or so, representatives were appointed by the Non-Intervention Committee in London, under Lord Perth, to be stationed along the Pyrenean frontier and point out the proposed passage of munitions to the French Gardes Mobiles, who should thereupon stop them. These hundred and thirty were picked men of experience and intelligence supplied by the Governments of England, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Lettonia, and other countries, save those like Italy, Germany, Russia and France, suspected of interventionist leanings. They receive 7,000 francs per month, and for ten months now have been busily occupied in doing—nothing. For when Germany and Italy, for good or bad but at any rate intelligible reasons, withdrew from the Non-Intervention Committee, all these officers in the Pyrenees were withdrawn from the frontier, being refused by France their former right of inspection. Inspection had not been easy; some observers had been threatened, some, it is believed, had been shot at. But, once withdrawn, their entire work has been to avoid anything that might even suggest inspection. The frontier is taboo to them, and they while away their enforced idleness with such resources as retiring little towns like Pau, Luchon, Foix, Tarbes and St. Gaudens can afford.

This efficient, but never complete restraint removed, the French roads and railways became so many lines for the continual replenishment of the Spanish Reds. It could not be expected that French hauliers and railways groaning under a deficit of astronomic proportions would not make hay while the sun shone; nor munition manufacturers able to get rid of time-expired stocks, nor yet the docks handling munition ships from Russia. Impartial observers estimate that during this period not less than five trains of munitions have passed every night over the direct railway line from Toulouse to Barcelona; when that by Perpignan and Cerbère was blocked, as many as ten. Whoever has travelled by road in those parts cannot have failed to notice fleets of six to ten gigantic covered motor lorries, without any haulier's name or sign of contents or destination, supervised generally by men in a small car, all going south. A month ago one such overturned between Bordeaux and Montauban and burst. It was full of aeroplane parts. The railways can indulge in a certain pleasantry: trucks laden so that the springs go almost flat are labelled "Mimosa," or "Hemp—don't bump." By the acme of irony the office of one of the chief sections of the Non-intervention observers is exactly over a main railway line. It is a fond imagination that General Franco's guns alone have been fed from over the border. Huge stocks of guns, shells, tanks, rifles, machine-guns, cartridges, and dozens of aeroplanes have been despatched in less than a year from France to advance the cause of Communism in Spain.

The scale of profit, legitimate or otherwise, made from this traffic can only be guessed. Names of prominent Front Populaire politicians engaged in syndicates for its organisation are freely bandied about. What makes for greater enthusiasm is that this is not speculation: transactions in this trade

are for cash. The Reds pay for their munitions from and through France with gold from the expropriated Bank of Spain: General Franco, for his, which come by other routes, with minerals and oranges. Both sides boast, perhaps with truth, that they are indebted financially to no foreigner: their debts are paid as incurred. If they were English they would probably put it: "No bl—y foreigner." Neither Spaniard nor Catalan has much love for the outer world.

Now there came a day when this was not enough for France's Communists and Socialists. The former put increasing pressure on the latter. M. Blum, at the head of his second administration, wilted, or else the wine of power had gone to his head. That day was Wednesday, March 16, of this year, and on that day, it is alleged, M. Blum's Cabinet decided to throw the rags of Non-intervention to the wind by the despatch of two French divisions to Barcelona. This has been printed repeatedly in leading French newspapers and never contradicted, nor have any steps been taken against those papers. Now it is to be observed that Non-intervention has fulfilled its function: simulacrum though it be, it has saved us from the general European war that official intervention by any State would have precipitated. Never perhaps was the strength of ideas better exhibited. However much help was given *sub rosa* did not compel anyone to do more than try to go one better. But an open taking of sides would have meant Armageddon.

Forgetful of this, M. Blum's advisers plunged for the fray. They were brought up with a start when the French General Staff, being informed of the Government's purpose, spoke to the following effect: "Two divisions to Barcelona? Certainly. But you must also send three divisions to the Rhine and three to the Alps. And that means mobilisation." Then Socialist Ministers remembered the consideration that have moved M. Blum before. For mobilisation—and probably war—on behalf of the Spanish Reds was more than the average Frenchman would bear. When the news became known, fury spread throughout the middle classes. Not a father with sons of a military age have I seen who did not swear that he would fight against his own Government, to prevent his sons from fighting and dying in a foreign cause. One such, engaged in a factory that uses explosives, swore he would blow up the railway bridges and destroy the roads with dynamite. Officers declared that they would not march; many of the rank and file supported them. An ex-Radical Cabinet Minister told a Paris editor that if the order to send troops to Spain had been published, he would have gone to the Prime Minister's house and shot him dead, with any other Ministers present. Happily for all, the Socialist Government drew in its horns.

Non-intervention, then, still serves. Great is the Idea and it shall prevail. But it is yet possible that the hardly secret flouting of the idea will defeat the parties of peace. Mr. Chamberlain has plainly hinted that the only Power desirous of war is Soviet Russia. If English people do not see this they must be blind. But they should also see that Soviet Russia is behind the Red lines in the



Spanish war and behind the supply of munitions to the Reds from France. If by intensifying this, as has been done during the last months, Soviet Russia could spin out the Spanish civil war beyond next September, the date by which good observers expect General Franco to bring military operations to a successful end, the danger of intervention would be much increased. It will not have escaped notice that at the International Federation of Trade Unions, recently met at Oslo, M. Léon Jouhaux, the mouthpiece there of Moscow, threatened a general strike if effective control by the Non-intervention observers should be restored in the Pyrenees.

CLOVIS.

## THE BERBERS

IT has only been realised of recent years that the majority of the inhabitants of North Africa are Berbers and not Arabs. Even now we know very little concerning the early history of this warlike race which has sprung, so it is thought, from a common ancestry with the Celts. This view is upheld by the appearance of these fine, upstanding people who often have light eyes and a much fairer complexion than the Arabs. Custom, too, is different; the Berber women do not veil and the men wear a strip of cloth wound round the head in place of the fez.

Originally pagans, converted in turn to the Jewish, Christian and Moslem faiths, the Berbers have always been ready to embrace any new sect which might arise, though remaining profoundly ignorant as to its real purpose. They embraced the tenets of Islam in the eighth century, after the Arabs had spread like a swarm of locusts across North Africa, and then retired into their strongholds in the Atlas—those great kasbas built of boulders from the river bed, red earth and lime—where, although Mohammedanised, they remained faithful to their own laws and customs.

They were, in fact, still semi-independent in 1912 when the French proclaimed a protectorate over Morocco, and the great Berber kaids of the High Atlas, such as the Glaoui, the Goundafi and the M'tougi, exercised almost as much authority as the Sultan himself. General Lyautey, as he then was, realised that here he had to deal with two quite distinct races, the Arabs and the Berbers, and initiated the celebrated Berber policy, which has been so much criticised by the enemies of France, chiefly one presumes on account of its overwhelming success.

The proportion of Berbers to Arabs was probably two to one and, except for such towns as Fez and Rabat, where many families resided who could trace their descent back to the earliest days of Islam, not many Arabs had inter-married with the Berbers. The two races were quite different. On the one hand the Arabs, not as a rule with military instincts though brave enough, remained cultured and retained their respect of, and desire for, learning. On the other the Berbers, soldiers by instinct and choice, were illiterate and possessed only very rudimentary traces of culture.

Once pacified, the Berbers became faithful friends of the French, being sportsmen enough to bear no malice against former enemies, and not only furnished a large number of troops during the Great War, but also provided mehallas to assist in maintaining order among the frontier tribes during the Riff War. It is not the Berbers, but certain disaffected Arabs who have from time to time intrigued against the French. Indeed, there is little love lost between the town Arabs and the mountain Berbers, the one bond uniting them, a bond which is, it is true, a strong one, being the Moslem religion. The Arabs wish to Arabise Morocco, a policy unlikely to appeal to such instinctive lovers of freedom and local custom as the Berbers.

It was to be expected that so great an administrator as Marshal Lyautey would recognise this, and, while desirous of bringing the whole of Morocco under the effective control of the Maghzen, would see to it that the Berbers retained their customs and the kaids their authority. This policy, which pleased the Berbers, since it afforded convincing proof that the French intended to give them a square deal, has been continued by Lyautey's successors, notably by General Noguès, who at present occupies the office of Resident-General with such distinction.

Thus at Azrou there is a special Berber College, where the sons of the middle Atlas kaids and other boys specially selected for their intelligence receive an excellent education. Local custom, tradition and dialect are taken due notice of, and special attention is paid to agricultural instruction. Everywhere in Morocco one notices the flexibility of Moslem-French education, which varies according to the different classes and races with which it has to deal.

As regards the administration of justice, due provision is made for Berber susceptibilities. Maghzen Courts, it is true, deal with criminal matters, but important cases are referred to the special Berber penal section of the High Tribunal, which sits with assessors from the district where the crime was committed, who advise on customary law. Dahirs of the Sultan, published in 1914 and 1921, provided that the Chraa, or religious law, should not be in force where customary law was recognised by the inhabitants, and, since in those areas even the Maghzen Courts have no civil jurisdiction, the special Berber tribunals administer their own legal system to some two million inhabitants. The judges in these tribunals are not lawyers, but elders of the tribes, whose findings are supervised by a French official.

The development of the Berbers is of the very greatest interest, since upon it depends the whole future of Morocco. Of late they have suffered severely from the prolonged drought and subsequent famine, but the measures taken by the French should guard against a recurrence of these troubles. Intelligent, brave and hard-working, they should progress quickly now they are in touch with civilisation, and show themselves in no way inferior to European races.

F. H. MELLOR.

## Books of The Day

### EUROPEAN IMPRESSIONS

IN an era of a much-disturbed and constantly apprehensive Europe, when there is plenty of opportunity for national disagreements and misunderstandings, one may welcome a book in which the author, young though he be, sets out to record in all honesty and sincerity the impressions made upon him by recent contact with people he has come across in a tour embracing the Verdun battlefields, southern Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria again during the Hitler coup. Mr. Robert Young, as this author calls himself with a view apparently to hiding the identity both of himself and the people he has associated with on the Continent, is, one learns from the publishers' blurb, a young man of twenty-four who speaks five languages and "is at home in as many countries" ("A Young Man Looks at Europe," Heinemann, 10s. 6d.). His book reveals him as on the whole a quietly detached and shrewd observer, anxious to get at what the people he meets are really thinking and with a gift for winning their confidence. There is nothing of the propagandist about him, though he makes no attempt, in his last chapter on Austria, to hide his grief over its fate, and is moved to paint a vivid picture of the terror that was going on around him:

Nearly everyone we met told us of the brutality of the Nazis. Day after day, spoken in whispers on deserted stairways or in rooms where the blinds were drawn tight, we heard of the mounting roll of suicides among the Jews. But not only the Jews: social democrats, liberals, legitimists, communists—they were all caught in the net which had been flung four months ago. The bookshops on the Schwartzbergerplatz were besieged by armed Nazis, who prodded us with bayonets when we moved near the windows. . . .

We left Vienna on Friday night, exactly a week after the Nazis took possession of the city. We were tired of the Hitler salute and the continual senseless cries of *Sieg Heil*; but we were more than ever tired of the mounting roll of brutalities—tired and helpless. . . . We saw armed boys entering houses, and within five minutes the ambulance would arrive, as though they gave themselves only five minutes in which to destroy people's lives. . . . All day S.S. cars screamed through the streets with their loads of prisoners.

Mr. Young confesses with disarming candour that he returned to England "without any clear idea of the forces which are working in Central Europe." But he had not failed to be impressed with the fact that "everyone was talking about war with a sense of incredulous belief." War in fact had become unreal by the mere constant repetition of the word. In both Germany and Czechoslovakia it "appeared to occupy the foreground in one's conversation and the background of one's thoughts. As long as this distinction lasts, war may be avoided. . . . We heard enough during our stay in Germany to return convinced that there were comparatively few Germans who have completely surrendered to the mysticism and false heroics of extreme National Socialist theory. It is always mysticism and false heroics which leads to war." Altogether an ably written, extremely readable book that makes no pretensions to deal

authoritatively with high politics, but does succeed admirably in throwing light on "how ordinary people (in Central Europe) think and live, and react to their everyday problems."

### PRINCESS LIEVEN

Few women, in the nineteenth century post-Waterloo era, wielded a greater influence behind the political and diplomatic scenes than Princess Lieven, first as wife of the Russian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's and then as mistress in turn of Metternich and Guizot. Mr. H. Montgomery Hyde, who gives us a full and illuminating account of the Princess's early and later career ("Princess Lieven," Harrap, illustrated, 12s. 6d.), shows how great was the influence she exerted in English politics. She it was who intervened to settle the differences between George IV and Liverpool and Castlereagh after the Queen's trial and to persuade the King to invite Lady Castlereagh to one of his dinners. As a member of George IV's "Cottage Coterie" she helped to direct British foreign policy, and Mr. Hyde says that it was due to her that Palmerston was appointed Foreign Secretary in the Grey Ministry. Her one conspicuous failure as Russian "ambadress" was in connection with the Tsar Alexander I's visit to England during the Regency. All the charm of her personality was not sufficient to break down or to hide the mutual dislike of the Tsar and Regent for one another. In later years when she revisited England from across the Channel and was received by the young Queen Victoria, Uncle Leopold had been at pains to warn his niece against her, and she had reason to feel in consequence a little chilled by the reception accorded her. Mr. Hyde has much that is new to tell us of the Princess's later life in Paris, and this adds greatly to the interest of a fascinating biography.

### THE ORCHESTRA

To those who have a real love for good music, even if they are a little vague as to what exactly goes to the making of it, in this or that orchestra or under this or that conductor, as well as to the professional musician, Mr. Bernard Shore's delightfully informative and entertaining book, "The Orchestra Speaks" (Longmans, 7s. 6d.), will strongly appeal. It deals lightly but comprehensively with what might be called the human aspect of musical performances. We see first the orchestra getting down to its work; the strain and labour of it, the petty worries and annoyances, the difficulties arising out of individual idiosyncrasies, bad light and faulty acoustics, and so on and so forth. Then we come to consider from the orchestra point of view the difference in atmosphere created by the varying personalities of the conductors. Here Mr. Shore displays a remarkably pleasing flair for hitting off special characteristics, big or small. He has an observant eye for even the seemingly trivial which, as he presents it, becomes at once an important feature of a particular portrait. And his gallery of portraits is a large one, including many Continental and some twenty English conductors.

## CHRISTOPHER WOOD

The exhibition organised recently by the Redfern Gallery of the paintings of the late Christopher Wood attracted, it is estimated, an attendance of no fewer than 50,000 people. As a result of the wide interest taken in this exhibition there has been a large demand for the memorial volume dealing with Christopher Wood's life and work, that was originally produced for visitors to the exhibition. This book has now been made available to the general public ("Christopher Wood: His Life and Work," by Eric Newton, illustrated with 27 plates in full colour and many reproductions in monochrome, Heinemann, 8s. 6d.). It is in every way a worthy tribute of honour to the young artist whose life, so full of promise, was tragically cut short at the age of 29. In summing up his qualities as a painter, Mr. Eric Newton writes:

"If Wood had not lived a cosmopolitan existence, with Paris as his headquarters, I doubt whether he would have achieved that confident grip of his craft as early as he did. The series of decisions and accidents that cut him off from England and threw him into the cross-currents of Continental life set his art free. He never strove to paint with a French accent, as so many pseudo-cosmopolitans do, but he did learn to shed the British inflexibility of his craftsmanship. His last pictures are painted with a happy ease, almost an *insouciance*, despite the passionate, the almost desperate intensity of their mood: they are the work of a man on such intimate terms with his craft that he finds it no longer a problem. A good conversationalist uses words so easily that they seem to flow unbidden: they are not even vehicles for his thought: they are one with it. Christopher Wood at his best used paint in this way."

## A DEBUTANTE'S MEMORIES

A racy, witty and vivacious chronicle is what Lady Mary Pakenham offers her readers in the story of her first twenty years of life ("Brought Up and Brought Out," Cobden-Sanderson, 8s. 6d.). It begins with an "important notice": "My brothers and sisters have not read this book, but they wish me to say that they are prepared to deny everything in it. Speaking for myself, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of any of its statements." One of "a large family of large children," Lady Mary first tells of her childhood passed between a Victorian Gothic castle in Ireland and a country house in Oxfordshire, and then proceeds in light, satirical vein to an account of the schooling and education she received mostly at the hands of governesses at home. In these years she confesses to having been "constantly mystified" as to what was expected of her; but her bewilderment in her early years was as nothing to that at the time when she was a debutante.

I came out and was flummoxed. For years French and Latin and Italian and Euclid and Algebra and History and the rest had been thrust at me, and I had never known them well enough. And now suddenly I found I knew them much too well. . . .

Slow though I was, I was just sharp enough to see that my ghastly secret must be preserved at all costs. . . . I was somehow suspect from the first. . . . Be the reason what it may, there is no denying that I acquired the unsavoury reputation of being "intelligent." No harder word was used. No harder word was needed. I found that I had been barking up many other wrong trees. For instance, niceness, which

# THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

*The Weekly Newspaper  
of the World of Books*

TO serve the changing needs of the modern reader, *The Times Literary Supplement* has recently been redesigned, with "signposted" reviews for the reader's convenience, and widened in scope to include more topics, more illustrations, and more special articles. Everyone who recognizes the close relationship between literature and life to-day, and who feels it necessary to keep in touch with new trends and developments, will appreciate the vigorous criticism and informative comment in *The Times Literary Supplement* each week. The contents of the paper now include the following features:

## QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

Week by week the editorial opinion on topics of outstanding importance is given in brief and pointed leading articles.

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To assist the reader in compiling a library list a carefully considered selection of books made on the recommendation of the reviewers is given each week in tabulated form.

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

Signed articles written by eminent authors are to be commissioned on centenary and other chosen occasions.

## NEWS

Under the heading NEWS AND NOTES the reader will find a series of paragraphs concerning developments in the world of authors and publishers, activities of literary societies, and other relevant topics.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

The new form of the *Literary Supplement* makes it possible to include more and larger illustrations than hitherto. The quality of reproduction renders these especially pleasing to the eye, while the subjects are chosen for their informative value as well as their decorative qualities.

**Every Friday**  
**THREEPENCE**



I had always been told was valuable, turned out to be quite unimportant. All that mattered was success.

Lady Mary paints an amusing if highly coloured picture of the trials of a debutante's life, with its boring succession of dinners and dances, its ineane efforts at bright conversation, its dependence on mysterious "Lists," and a little slum work thrown in as a salve to conscience. She then goes on to tell of her endeavours to learn drawing and of her brief, rather inglorious experience of journalism, concluding on the characteristic satirical note:

And so my summer as a reporter ended, and I was back with the idle again, having learnt, if nothing else, at least one thing—to be sceptical about the nobility of earning one's own living. Dignity of labour my foot.

### NEW NOVELS

The tough, vivid and uncompromising realism of Mr. James T. Farrell has won for him a place of special distinction among the younger generation of American novelists. His "Studs Lonigan" produced a chorus of praise, from critics on both sides of the Atlantic, that seemed to exhaust all the superlatives; it was hailed as a masterly indictment of the system which makes hooligans and criminals out of small boys playing at street corners. He has now followed this novel up with another, equally tough and realistic, exposing the terrible conditions of slum life in Chicago. The new book is called "A World I Never Made" (Constable, 8s. 6d.). The characters are members of an Irish family—one part living in poverty but semi-respectability, the other in slum quarters, in

filth and squalor. One of the characters, the child Danny, appeared among the gang of youngsters in the early pages of "Studs Lonigan." In the new book he is rescued from his slum home by his grandmother and is brought up by her and her unmarried daughter, Margaret, a cashier at an hotel. The story, told to a large extent in dialogue, brings out the contrasting differences of the two homes. The main effect may not be altogether pleasant, but there can be no denying the compelling force of Mr. Farrell's realism on the minds of his readers.

An unusual type of novel, epic in the grandeur of its conception and its proportions, is Miss Christine Stead's "House of Nations" (Peter Davies, 10s. 6d.). The theme is banking and finance on an international scale and of the speculative and unscrupulous kind, and not only does Miss Stead display an amazing familiarity with all the complexities of her subject, but she marshals and portrays her vast army of characters with a skill and an avoidance of confusion that are most impressive. The background of the story is Paris and the chief figure a banker who engages in an extraordinary series of daring enterprises, only to become bankrupt in the end and to disappear.

Fraulein Lilo Linke has given us a clever, vividly executed study of German *émigré* life in Paris after the Hitler coup of 1933 in a book entitled "Cancel All Vows" (Constable, 8s. 6d.). It can hardly be said to be a wholly propagandist novel, since the main figure, Julius Bergmann, though a victim of Nazi persecution and injustice solely because of his "Left" opinions, is in no sense a pleasant character. He is selfish and morose, makes no endeavour to find work, lives within himself and is unkind and ungrateful both to his mother and Marthe, his mistress. As a contrast to Julius's repellent character, Fraulein Linke paints us a charming portrait of the hard-working gallant Marthe.

"Sea Wind," by E. M. Ward (Methuen), is an attractive story of exceptional merit both for its quietly effective portrayal of character and for the skill with which the author makes her windy, sandy, West Lancashire sea-coast play its part in her tale. The chief characters are a brother and sister, last survivors of an old family. Into their lives come a buxom, good-hearted, designing widow, her daughter and a governess, and a shipwrecked Swiss. And thus the scene is set for romance for brother and sister, with sea and wind providing their alarums and excursions.

Miss Winifred Watson in "Up Yonder" (Methuen, 8s. 6d.) pictures for us, with much charm and light, adroit touch, the life of a small community on the Eastern side of the Pennines a hundred years ago. It is the tale of two twin sisters adopted by an uncle and aunt who have a family of two sons and one daughter. Fate at first deals hardly with the more fascinating of the twin sisters in linking her with an insanely jealous man who turns out to be a bigamist. But romance is round the corner for her in the person of a travelling tailor, while her sister, who has always been in love with one of her cousins, is also eventually destined to marry the man of her choice.

A thriller extravaganza, written with a light-

*A new murder book by*

## WARNER ALLEN

Times Literary Supplement: "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design.

"Mr. Warner Allen has chosen for his background the home and political life of Roger d'Arblay, bitter opponent of the French premier, Allard. Public and private intrigues lead to a series of tragedies.

"A brilliant chapter on the trial of Madame d'Arblay for the murder of Allard deserves special mention as a model for those who should ever attempt the dangerous feat of balancing on a rope stretched between accurate observation and planned exaggeration, without falling into the net of caricature."

7/6 net

**"DEATH FUNGUS"**

*Constable*



hearted gaiety that it is difficult to resist, is "Five Came to London," by Richard Saxby (Heinemann). It begins with the kidnapping of a young girl who has just arrived in England from a finishing school in France and who thoroughly enjoys this exciting adventure. Then it goes on to the telling of how the ransom money got sewn into the coat of a tramp. From this point the story takes many surprising twists and turns, among the thrills being the capture and rescue of a prospective Derby winner.

Miss Georgette Heyer has her own original and delightful way of writing a detective story. She believes in presenting not only a difficult puzzle but a set of characters who are really alive and interesting to her readers; and she has at her command a rare gift of humour and a flair for brisk and lively dialogue further to ensure the success of her tales. Her latest book, "A Blunt Instrument" (Hodder & Stoughton), with its piquant dialogue, curiously assorted characters and ingenious crime mystery, represents Miss Heyer at her brightest and best.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett have just published two novels by Mr. Lee Thayer, the creator of that famous private investigator, Peter Clancy, and his Watson, the indispensable valet-chauffeur, Wiggarr. The first of the stories is "Death in the Gorge," in Messrs. Hurst & Blackett's 3s. 6d. series. The other is "Ransom Racket" (7s. 6d.). In both tales Clancy has difficult problems to solve and in both he is, of course, eventually successful. But Mr. Thayer never makes things too easy for his sleuth, and his stories are full of exciting incident. There is a slickness in their telling and they move at a fast pace.

### PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Chatto & Windus expect to have Mr. Richard Hughes' second novel, "In Hazard," ready for publication early in the coming autumn.

The story of the Himalayan expedition which so nearly succeeded in conquering the Hidden Peak in the Kara-Koran range in 1936 will be published some time this summer by Methuen, under the title "Himalayan Assault."

Among the forthcoming books of John Lane the Bodley Head will be one by Mrs. E. Talcott Hibbert, entitled "Embroidered Gauze," in which the author presents a portrait gallery of famous Chinese women.

The Oxford University Press announce for the autumn "The Law of Treaties: British Practice and Opinions," by Dr. A. D. McNair, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool.

Among Harrap's books for July will be "The Universal Provider: A Study of William Whiteley and the Rise of the London Department Store," by Richard S. Lambert, and "Japan's 'Grand Old Man': Prince Saionji, the last Genro," by Bunji Omura.

In the autumn John Murray will be bringing out "The Letters of the Prince Consort, 1831-1861," selected and edited by Dr. Kurt Jagow, and published by the authority of His Majesty the King. Another of Murray's books to be published in October will be "Charcot of the Antarctic," by Marthe Oulié.

Werner Laurie will shortly publish "Socialism in New Zealand," by Mr. John A. Lee, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the New Zealand Minister of Finance. Mr. Attlee, Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party in this country, has written an introduction to the book.

One of the most fascinating books on Yachting yet written is about to be published by Messrs. Seeley Service & Co. It is entitled "The Yachtsman's Week-End Book," by John Irving and Douglas Service.

### OTHER NEW BOOKS

- "The Silver River" (The Diary of a Schoolboy in the South Atlantic), by Alexander Comfort (Chapman & Hall, 5s.).
- "A Modern Sea Beggar," by Temple Utley (the story of his cruise from Newlyn to Fiji in the yawl *Inyala*, with letters telling of his life in the South Seas, edited by Freda and Emily Utley, Peter Davies, 9s.).
- "Everybody's Paris," by John Brangmyn (Methuen, illustrated, 12s. 6d.).
- "Can I Help You, Madam?" by Ethyle Campbell (Cobden-Sanderson, 8s. 6d.).
- "Uphill Journey," by John Barthropp (Chambers, 8s. 6d.).
- "Vagabonds All," by Dorothy A. Hunt (Hurst & Blackett).
- "The Missing Agent," by Michael Annesley (Harrap).
- "The Importance of Living," by Lin Yutang (Heinemann, 15s.).
- "A Gardener's Progress," by Fred Stoker (Putnam, 5s.).

Sixth Impression.

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## Schools of Hellas

AN ESSAY ON  
ANCIENT GREEK EDUCATION

By

**K. J. FREEMAN,**

Scholar of Winchester and of Trinity College, Cambridge

*With fourteen reproductions of  
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We have nothing but praise.—*The Times*  
The book is a masterpiece.—*Morning Post*  
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Full of freshness and the joy of life.—*The Guardian*  
The best account in English.—*Saturday Review*

**MACMILLAN**

## Round the Empire

### THE SAVAGE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

IN a recent review of his Government's work, Mr. Savage, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, said they had made £11½ millions of public credit available for national purposes and more would be available as the need arose. "It is," he said, "our task to build the new prosperity upon more stable foundations than the old. It is our aim to eliminate the succession of booms and slumps to which our economy has continually been subject in the past and to produce and maintain conditions which will give the people a steadily rising level of security, plenty, and happiness. The Labour Government has accepted the responsibility for deciding the main direction of national economic development and during our term of office we have put into practice a series of measures conducive to that end. As a result standards of living have increased and national assets have been created. Wages to-day are higher than they were in the boom year of 1929. They have in fact increased from £67,000,000 in 1935 to £96,000,000 in 1937, and I need hardly add that wages would not have gone back even to 1931 levels had it not been for the action of the Labour Government, and to-day more people are employed at the higher wages.

"Unemployment which was 57,000 in December, 1935, stands at 14,600 to-day. This total includes 8,000 men unfit for any work. Sustenance rates are better and conditions of work on public works have been improved. Pensions have been extended. All social services have in fact been expanded and they will be expanded still further so that the poorer people in one of the richest countries in the world will be assured of a fair share of the decencies and comforts of existence.

"The farmer has been given security and stability under the guaranteed price; his marketing is being carried out by the Government more efficiently than ever before and the reduction of his mortgages and interest continues. Action has been taken under the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act to set up 33 adjustment commissions throughout the Dominion. The applications for relief total nearly 16,000 and already over £2,000,000 has been written off farm debts.

"Extensive changes have been made in education and many more are proposed or pending. I would like to draw particular attention to the widespread nature of the free-milk-in-schools scheme, which already covers half the total school population, the country library scheme, the consolidation of schools, the extension of dental treatment, to mention a very few of the important features in this field. Great progress has been made in the field of housing. To date 3,100 houses have been advertised and work is proceeding in 55 towns.

Contracts are now being let at the rate of 60 a week. The economic welfare of New Zealand is being promoted by the activities of the Bureau of Industry. The main function of the bureau is to promote new industries in the most economic form and so far fifteen industries have been declared licensed ones under the Industrial Efficiency Act. Moreover, price-fixing has been extended to certain commodities, such as butter, wheat, petrol, onions, and barley. Important changes are taking place in the marketing of fruit and vegetables.

"It is fashionable nowadays to run down and sneer at Parliamentary democracy; to say that it is out of date; that it is inefficient; that it is incapable of decision. The Labour Party has always denied these charges, and I maintain that its actions in Parliament over the past two years give the lie direct to them. Parliamentary democracy in New Zealand has shown that it can do big things and do them well, and, above all, that it has the flexibility to meet the new complex problems of a new age.

"In nearly all cases overseas democracy has fallen victim to the folly of its own internal divisions and power has fallen from its nerveless grasp. One of the main reasons for this failure has been the unpopularity of discipline. It is in the nature of democracy that essential discipline must be self-imposed, and it must never be forgotten that the privileges and rights of democracy carry with them corresponding duties and responsibilities. More than that—it pre-supposes loyalty and a spirit of service. After all, democratic institutions are maintained by public opinion, and they are overthrown by public opinion. We who believe in democracy must hold our opinions with conviction and maintain them with vigour. It is in this vital spirit and in the full consciousness of our responsibilities, and in our preparedness to rise to them, that our democratic way of living will be maintained. That it will be maintained in this country I have no shadow of doubt.

### "BUSYBODIES FROM ABROAD"

The hope that the time was not far distant when "politicians and other busybodies from abroad" would at least keep out of New Zealand politics was expressed with some emphasis by Mr. Savage, when he was asked if he had any comment to make on a series of articles contributed to the *New Zealand Evening Post* by Sir Harry Gullett, a former Australian Cabinet Minister, criticising the New Zealand Government's policy.

"We are always glad to have visitors coming here on holiday," said Mr. Savage, "but when they start to interfere in our political affairs it seems to me they are going a little bit over the mark. It is not only Parliamentarians. We have had economists and ramblers of different brands. They are here about 24 hours and write about the big mistakes the Government has made. Not so long ago an economist condemned the Government before he was off the ship. He came here from Sydney."

### "SO LONG AS THE WATER RUNS"

"Queen Victoria told my grandfather, my father and myself that so long as the grass grows and the water runs I and my children may hunt and fish for ever and ever." Such was the plea entered by Chief Bigwin, who claims hereditary chieftainship of the Ojibway Indians, on behalf of four members of his tribe who are charged with spearing fish in a closed season. The Indians, in their defence, claim that the waters of Lake St. John, where they are alleged to have trespassed, were part of preserved land, and therefore immune from Provincial game laws. The case has yet to be decided, but, however the verdict goes, one will be grateful for this reminder of the persistence of the romantic phrase: "So long as the grass grows and the water runs"—the cadence is almost biblical.

### A VERSATILE INDUSTRY

Canada's pulp and paper industries are among the most important in the Dominion. Their value is not, however, confined to sales of the commodities they produce, for they are also among Canada's largest purchasers of her own goods. Last year they spent £15,000,000 on a host of supplies of material necessary for the carrying on of ordinary operations. The fishermen on the Atlantic, the coal miner on the Pacific coast, the wheat grower on the Prairies, the orchard owner in the Niagara Peninsula, the dairyman and stock raiser, the workers in textiles, iron, steel and motor cars—all of them contributed something to the progress of pulp and paper. Here are a few figures which show the extent of the contribution of these industries to Canadian industrial progress as a whole:

They bought farm and live stock products to the value of £1,600,000. They spent £1,200,000 on coal, thus creating an important outlet for Nova Scotia products. £160,000 was spent on fuel oil. £3,500,000 was paid for the energy supplied by Central Electric stations. Something like £1,000,000 was spent in establishing lumber camps. Nearly £5,000,000 was devoted to replacements, additional machinery and so forth, while large sums were spent on sulphur, limestone, chlorine, salt, clay and dyes.

### CANADIAN CHEESE

Canada and New Zealand continue to supply Great Britain with a large proportion of her imported cheese. Together they sent to this country 2,543,000 cwts. out of a total of 2,938,000 imported, the remainder coming from foreign countries. Although New Zealand exports more than Canada, the latter increased her share last year by 20 per cent. Incidentally, the per capita consumption of cheese of all kinds in Britain is 8.6 lbs. Oddly enough, in Canada it is less than 3½ lbs.

### LATEST IN HOSPITALS

Canada is one of the most progressive nations in the treatment of her sick. Medical services have been established for the remotest parts of the Arctic and sub-Arctic where there are any com-

munities with any claim whatever to the guardianship of Ottawa. It almost goes without saying, therefore, that a new hospital which is being constructed in Ontario should be one of the finest of its kind. It will consist of 36 buildings on a thousand-acre estate, with accommodation for 2,300 patients and a large medical staff. Expenses will be reduced by cultivating allotments and raising cattle. The building will cost something like £2,000,000, and will embody the most up-to-date features such as glass bricks, concealed plumbing and the finest electrical equipment. A pleasant innovation will be the incorporation of ornamental grille work in the windows, an artistic touch which, it is hoped, will have a constructive psychological effect upon the patients. It will be five years before the buildings are finished.

### NYASALAND IS WILLING

The Convention of Associations for Nyasaland has prepared a Memorandum for the Royal Commission that is inquiring into the desirability of the amalgamation of that colony and the two Rhodesias. Its conclusion is that: "Nyasaland accepts unreservedly the ideal of some closer form of co-operation or association in a form to be mutually agreed upon by Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and approved by His Majesty's Government." One of the reasons given for this decision is that these three territories should have a co-ordinated scheme of defence.

### A ROAD REPEATS ITSELF

When the unknown ancients came to what is now Southern Rhodesia in search of ivory and gold they built their principal city, fortress and temple at a spot now marked by the ruins at Zimbabwe. Many hundreds of years later when, in 1890, the great hunter, Selous, piloted Cecil Rhodes' pioneer column into the country, he chose a route and cut a road that passed near these ruins, and there the column made a fortified base camp, which they called Fort Victoria and which later developed into a busy township. Then came the railways, whose routes were influenced by political considerations. New towns were created and Fort Victoria dropped into comparative insignificance. Farms and a few mines kept it alive, but the stream of travellers who once made it a busy centre on their way to and from the mysterious north went by other routes. With the coming of the motor car, surveyors and engineers sought the easiest and most natural line of country across which to lay their tarmac roads. Their scientific instruments showed that the route chosen by the people of prehistoric times, and later hit on by Selous, was the logical highway. So, thanks to petrol, once again Fort Victoria, and Zimbabwe, see travellers in their thousands passing by.

### THE LONGEST GARAGE

What will probably be the longest garage in Africa, south of the Equator, is being built in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. The repairs



section, costing approximately £20,000, will be on the most modern lines and is to be fitted with the very latest mechanical equipment, including an indoor test track and a performance-indicator. Two other sections, which will be run independently from each other and from the repairs branch, are to be devoted to the sale of new cars.

### CONGRESS AND FEDERATION

"The Congress attitude towards the Federation can be summed up as one of uncompromising hostility," declared Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress President, addressing a meeting of the Indian and European Progressive Groups at Bombay recently. "Our attitude towards provincial autonomy," he added, "does not have any analogy towards Federation, because under the provincial autonomy scheme we did have some measure of power which we could use for the benefit of the country, while in the case of the federal scheme there is nothing. Except for the Indian National Congress, every other political party in the country was for working the provincial part of the Government of India Act. But the Congress had its doubts as to whether it would be in the interests of the country to work it. Because of our doubts, it took us some time to make up our minds, and ultimately we decided to try this experiment. Even now our attempt to work provincial autonomy is in the nature of an experiment. We had and still have considerable misgivings as to the wisdom of our accepting office. Nevertheless the experiment is being tried."

"But in the case of Federation," he continued, "the arguments that weighed with us in considering provincial autonomy do not exist. In the first place, if you analyse the federal scheme both in the matter of the composition of the federal legislature and also in the matter of the powers of the Federal Government, the scheme from all points of view is entirely unsatisfactory. The mode of election which is to be indirect election is quite contrary to the principle of democracy. The composition of the Federal Legislature itself will be such that the different communities will be split up and put into watertight compartments, and separate electorates are there, a phenomenon which is peculiar to this country and unknown to any other country in the world. The representatives of the Indian States will be the nominees of the Princes. Such nominees have been given representation far in excess of the population of the Indian States. The population of the Indian States is roughly about 21 per cent. of the total population of India, but they have 33 per cent. representation in the Lower House. While the reactionary Princes are given great weightage, the poor States' subjects do not come into the picture at all. They have been entirely ignored."

Proceeding, Mr. Bose said that he was aware of the attempts made to bring some sort of democracy in the States preparatory to their joining the Federation. It was possible that at least some of the Princes would discard a few shreds of their autocratic powers. "When we consider the powers of the Federal Government, we could not

but reject it. You have a diarchy, some subjects to be handled by Ministers responsible to the House, and there are numerous other subjects which will be administered not by the elected Ministers but by officers appointed by the Governor-General and who will not be responsible to the Federal Legislature."

Referring to the Defence Department, Mr. Bose said: "From 50 to 55 per cent. of our revenue goes for the maintenance of the Army, Air Force and Navy, and yet we will have no voice over that huge expenditure. All this money will be spent year after year and yet no appreciable efforts would be made for the training of the nationals of this country to defend themselves." Mr. Bose said that at the rate at which Indian officers were recruited and trained, it might possibly take roughly 1,000 years to Indianise the Army. With numerous financial, commercial and other safeguards, the defence and the foreign policy of India being reserved subjects, Mr. Bose observed that Federation was not worth having. "With 75 per cent. of the revenue gone and only 25 per cent. for yourself, with no power whatever, what are you going to do with Federation?" he asked. He added that the federal constitution was so rigid that making any future progress was utterly impossible except with the passing of fresh legislation by the British Parliament. The whole federal scheme, according to him, was based on mistrust.

### COORG AND MYSORE

According to the Bangalore correspondent of the *Statesman*, the possibility is not remote that Coorg, now a Chief Commissioner's province administered through the British Resident in Mysore, may be absorbed into Mysore State. Coorg's finances are causing some concern, and Mr. P. K. Wittal, of the Government of India's Accounts Department, is now in Mercara examining the position in conjunction with Lt.-Col. de la Hay Gordon, Chief Commissioner for Coorg, and his officers. The difficulty lies in the fact that Coorg's population of 326,657 adults are almost entirely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and the depression in agricultural prices has largely contributed to the impoverishment of the people. Another factor is severe competition by Brazil in the coffee trade. How greatly these two factors have affected Coorg may be gleaned from the following facts: Of the 1,582 square miles available, 519 square miles are reserved forest, there are 99,000 acres under coffee, 2,300 under cardamoms, 8,000 under fruit cultivation (chiefly oranges) and 1,042 acres under pepper. In addition, paddy is a staple crop round the villages.

In the last financial year there were decreases in revenue for various reasons. A fall in the consumption of country liquor due to dire poverty among the ryots accounted for a loss of Rs.11,096. While Excise revenue thus dropped to Rs.2,23,571, expenditure increased to Rs.10,546. Forest revenue dropped by Rs.18,157, and here again, while income amounted to only Rs.3,26,621, expenditure rose slightly to Rs.1,99,064. This drop in forest revenue is in large measure due to deliberate policy.

The Administration feel that sandalwood is over-exploited and have restricted sales to 150 tons a year until an enumeration is made of the sandalwood resources of the province. In this connection it is revealed that the Government of India feel that not sufficient use is being made of the forestry resources of Coorg, and the Inspector-General of Forests is soon to visit Coorg to advise in this regard. Miscellaneous heads of revenue reveal a total drop of Rs.12,227; income-tax is down by Rs.1,053 due largely to the decreased incomes of coffee planters; the stamp revenue is down by Rs.5,825; postage shows a drop of Rs.4,692. In the result the net revenue under all heads is Rs.5,58,760, while expenditure is Rs.8,34,379. The deficit cannot be met by taxation. Coffee planters are struggling for existence; the ryots are several years in arrears with land revenue taxes—the collection of arrears has not only had to be suspended but, in addition, in the last year revenue remissions of 12½ per cent. had to be granted to relieve distress. In this connection it is of interest that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is understood to be making a survey of agricultural conditions with a view to a greater diversification of crops and in order to encourage fruit and paddy growing to a still greater extent.

Madras is the only legitimate British Indian province into which this temporarily bankrupt cinderella could be absorbed. But Madras has enough on her hands to contend with already and, emphatically, regards the possibility of absorbing Coorg without enthusiasm. Again, the Congress Government of Madras is pledged to the principle of the fragmentation of that Presidency into a number of "linguistic provinces" and territorially Coorg could not rationally be absorbed by any of these divisions even if economically she was a coveted possession. Against this there are many natural affinities between Coorg and Mysore, and it is historically true that British arms alone dispossessed Mysore of its somewhat troublesome suzerainty over Coorg. There is therefore some justice in Mysore's contention that if Coorg is to cease to be a separate entity the territory should again come under Mysore control. From the point of view of the Coorg people, too, it is safe to say they would prefer union with Mysore if their present status is to be revised.

### AIR DEVELOPMENTS

An ever-growing part is being played by aircraft in the transport of gold which, for various political and economic reasons, is continually on the move nowadays. Recently, for example, a number of heavily-laden bullion-planes have been reaching England from different parts of the Continent. The sooner gold is on the market the sooner, of course, it becomes interest-bearing. Hence the value of high-speed air transport. Insurance rates are also lower by air than they are by surface routes. Figures show that more and more gold from African mines is now being consigned to Imperial Airways for carriage by air to England.

A facility much appreciated by the business world is the "bulk travel" system of Imperial

Airways. It is by this system, as it has been operating for some considerable time past, that business houses have been depositing with the Company a lump sum to defray the cost of an ensuing period of air travel on European routes, receiving special vouchers which can be exchanged for air tickets not only at the Company's offices but also at the stations of all air-lines which are members of the International Air Traffic Association. Now, as a further extension of facilities, it will become possible for clients to adopt a new method whereby preliminary cash deposits are avoided, the system operating on a monthly basis as between the Company and its clients, and with all previous advantages maintained as regards percentage reductions obtainable on ordinary air fares.

A weekly air-mail service has been brought into operation between Sydney, Australia and New Guinea. By the inaugural dispatch, leaving Sydney recently, more than 20,000 letters were carried.

### CEYLON COINS NEW WORD

A new word has been coined in Ceylon. It is "urbanarean."

The electrical engineer of an urban district council in the Island was asked at a meeting to submit a report about the electrical facilities to adjoining areas. In his report the electrical engineer referred to "villages" in the area. The chairman of the meeting took exception to this term, and asked that it be erased from the report. "We are not villagers," he stated, "we are urbanareans"—meaning inhabitants of an urban area.

### CEYLON HANDICRAFTS FOR LONDON

Carved elephants, date leaf hats and other products of Ceylon's cottage industries are to be exhibited in London at a British and Dominion Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held at Dorland Hall from 22nd June to 2nd July. Other exhibits will include wood carvings, tortoiseshell work, brass and silver work and handwoven mats and rugs.

### RHODESIAN PLANTS FOR CEYLON

For the last five years a farmer in Southern Rhodesia has been sending small parcels of seed of wild Rhodesian trees and plants for trial in Ceylon. Some of these are used in the Royal Botanic Gardens, where two trees, the M'Sasa and Baobab, are showing particular promise. From an industrial point of view, however, certain leguminous plants useful in checking soil erosion, and as cover and green manure for tea, are the most interesting. This season 20 different kinds of leguminous plants have been sent from Southern Rhodesia to the Ceylon Tea Research Institute for experimental planting. Reports from the Institute on last year's seeds are very favourable and the most promising plant for checking soil erosion is stated by the Agricultural Chemist to be doing "extraordinarily well."

## Your Investments

### CAPITAL OR INCOME?

IN these days when alarms and excursions of a political nature may nip in the bud overnight a promising revival of Stock markets, the investor is hard put to it to decide whether his money is best left in the bank at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. or no interest at all, in British Government stocks or a sound building society at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the latter giving a perfectly good income but with every chance of capital fluctuations. The answer to this problem must be that an investment has always to be made to suit the individual investor. Gains or losses of capital are only paper rises or falls until they are realised, and it is curious how often the investor who can afford to lock up his holding without realisation which would be unprofitable sees his capital return to its original amount in the next favourable trade wave.

For the investor who wishes for a reasonable income, but does not wish to realise the capital, a good stock is not ineligible which may fluctuate in value, for he can wait until the capital position is satisfactory before he sells his holding. But for the investor who may at any time have to realise because he wants the capital, and who cannot afford to make a loss on such realisation, it is obviously wrong to risk stock yielding, say, 6 per cent. which must necessarily be subject to market fluctuations. Just at the moment L.M.S. 4 per cent. (1st) preference stock at around 66 appears highly attractive from the income standpoint, for it yields 6 per cent. Nor with the interest assured for a year or so ahead, failing any major disaster, can one imagine any falling-off in capital value from the present extremely low level.

#### COURTAULDS' 6 PER CENT. YIELD

So severe is the present market slump in industrials that once-favourite stocks and shares have come to be regarded with suspicion. Hence the fall in Courtaulds to 34s., to give a yield of 6 per cent. on the basis of last year's  $10\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. dividend. The interim is not due until next month and as yet the market has hardly begun to worry about it, but the position of the rayon industry is believed to be so unsatisfactory that Courtaulds are experiencing their fall well in advance. At anything under £2 Courtaulds look worth a purchase, for the company's sound management and financial strength are by-words. If Courtaulds are experiencing a lean time as regards trade, then their competitors must be in a plight which will soon rule them out of competition—a grim sort of consolation, but a factor which has proved highly important in this industry in the past.

#### ARGENTINE RAILS

Revived talk of the Argentine Government taking over the British-owned railways in Argentina seems a little premature, but it has served to focus more attention on the stocks. Having regard to the difficulty in getting through the necessary legislation to complete the £9,000,000 Cordoba

Central deal, the Argentine Government is hardly likely to launch for some time on the troubled seas of nationalisation in regard to the four big lines, with capital amounting to a nominal £200,000,000. But some Government interest in the lines is undoubtedly the eventual objective, and it is to be hoped that Argentina will not attempt to take over the railways at an artificially depressed level for the stocks in the hands of unfortunate British holders. At the moment the prices of 30 for the 6 per cent. cumulative preference stock and 25 for the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. first non-cumulative preference of the Central Argentine are practically at rubbish level, and the impending dividend decisions by this company in regard to these stocks are keenly awaited. If only half the rate is paid on the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the yield will still be over 9 per cent., so that a purchase at the present level can hardly be a mistake. The 6 per cent. stock is more speculative but has a big chance of capital appreciation. Last year the price touched 101½ when a substantial payment was made on account of arrears of dividend. This is now four years in arrears and, when next Argentina experiences crop prosperity, holders of this stock should take the opportunity to realise.

#### RECORD "SHELL" PROFITS

"Shell" Transport and Trading Co. is a holding concern and the profits disclosed do not give much detail of the group's results, but the fact that they are a record at £6,616,489, against £5,983,456, suggests considerable prosperity for the oil industry in 1937, since "Shell" represents with its £40,000,000 of capital so important a section. The 20 per cent. tax-free dividend costs more this year, since the interim was paid on a larger capital owing to last year's share bonus, but the carry-forward is increased from £137,841 to £165,204. The interests of the Royal-Dutch-Shell group are so widespread that world trade has only to remain on reasonably prosperous dimensions for the company to be certain of another fine financial year. The £1 units priced at 82s. 6d., to yield 4 per cent. net, are a most lucrative investment.

#### HIGH-YIELDING STEELS

One of the first sections of stock markets to respond to the better outlook for British industry was, naturally, that for iron, coal and steel shares, and it has been the first to face the storm of falling security prices. There is hardly a "bull" of iron and steel issues in the country at the moment, yet results achieved for the past year give every indication that the industry should be able in its stronger financial position to weather an actual depression, which so far it is not experiencing. The shares are down to levels which can only be justified if the companies halve their dividends, and not even the pessimists expect such a drastic "cut." Latest distributions would have been hailed a year ago as evidence of the greatest prosperity. Now they are apparently only forerunners of depression; Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds show profits of £1,075,000 against £898,000, and the dividend is raised  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. tax-free for the year. Yet the £1 stock units can be bought at 24s. to yield nearly  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax.



John Brown, builders of the *Queen Mary* and her sister-ship, are distributing  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the shares in their present 10s. form and, priced at 27s., the yield is nearly 7 per cent. free of tax or well over 9 per cent. gross.

#### £80,000,000 FOR DEFENCE

It cannot be said that the new £80,000,000 Defence Loan in 3 per cent. stock, redeemable 1954-58 and offered at 98, makes a special appeal to the public investor. But evidently the time has not yet arrived when the Government must be dependent upon an issue which relies for its success on public support. The new loan gives a yield of £3 1s. 3d. per cent., or just over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. allowing for redemption, and as a "dated" stock at under par it has a special attraction for banks and financial institutions who have to be sure of maintaining their capital intact. No more Government borrowing is expected for some time and, with the long-awaited Defence Loan out of the way, there may be more activity for other new issues.

## Letters to the Editor

### MOTOR FIENDS

Sir,—I was interested in the letter which "MOTORIST" addressed to you on the subject of "the improvement in driving during the Whitsun holiday." He tells us that from his own experience at that time he found it hard to believe that there had been "any great reformation in the discourtesy of the road."

As a pedestrian and not a motorist, I can sympathise with the harrowing experience he records. Where I live, in the northern outskirts of London, I see every morning and every night, as the stream of motorists flows to and from the centre of London, cars constantly "cutting in" at highly dangerous speeds where the roads bend and where there is no possibility of knowing what there may be round the corner. Sooner or later at these points there are bound to be serious accidents. But how are these motor fiends to be restrained?

J. S. THOMPSON.

Hampstead Way, N.W.11.

### A "SOUCHIE"

Sir,—Can any of your readers tell me the constitution of a "Souchie?" It is, I am told, a form of fish stew, much thought of a generation ago and specially connected with Dorking for some reason that I cannot fathom. It seems improbable that it can have any connection with "bouillabaisse" which depends on fish only found in the Mediterranean.

Cosham, Hants.

A. Y. LLOYD.

### EIRE AND P.R.

Sir,—Mr. de Valera from the beginning of his public career has supported proportional representation on the ground, to use his own words, "that it is just." During the present election he has stated more than once his desire to continue the system, provided that government is stable—his own government was defeated by one vote; moreover, in order to prevent any misunderstanding he has declared that proportional representation is so important that any proposal for its abolition must be the subject of a referendum.

The important issue raised in the Irish election, the relations between methods of election and government, is discussed in the annual report issued this week by the Proportional Representation Society. This report points out that in Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland, all of which have used proportional representation for twenty years, certain general principles governing the relations between parties and the formation of governments have been developed—no Popular Fronts; parties independently presenting their case to the electors; fair representation and co-operation in the formation of the government between parties who were in agreement as to their immediate aims. In France and Spain, however, which have never used proportional representation, these conditions did not obtain. Popular Fronts arose in both countries. In Spain the creation of an artificial two-party system was the prelude to civil war; in France the large majority secured by the Popular Front was not followed by stable government.

In Ireland governments have been both strong and stable. Mr. Cosgrave's lasted ten years, Mr. de Valera's government has lasted six. There has been much bitterness between parties as a consequence of the bloodshed which followed the signing of the Treaty, but broadly, under P.R., Ireland has progressed from a condition of internal civil war to the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement and all the appeasement for which that stands. The present controversy so far from damaging proportional representation may lead to a new development in the internal government of Ireland, a larger measure of co-operation and consultation between parties.

The Society's Report is entitled: "Fair Representation. The Alternative to Popular and Anti-Popular Fronts." It surveys the elections of the year; it contains much information not easily available elsewhere; a copy will gladly be sent to any of your readers on application.

JOHN H. HUMPHREYS,

(Secretary, Proportional Representation Society)

82, Victoria-street, S.W.1.

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